

site is some 100 km to the north-west of any of the previously known sites. The Reserve includes a large expanse of open pine forest, and also has other 'old pine forest' species, notably the hoverfly *Callicera rufa* Schummel (I. MacGowan, pers. comm.) and the beetle *Pyropterus nigroruber* (Deg.). The latter was found by O. W. Richards in 1953 but never published to my knowledge—the specimen is now in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland at Edinburgh. Dead birch timber at Beinn Eighe was found to contain larvae of *X. ater* sensu auct. Brit. not Meig.

The larvae were initially identified using the key in Brindle (1961), and subsequently confirmed using Krivosheina & Mamayev (1972).

My thanks to Iain MacGowan and the Nature Conservancy Council for their hospitality during my visit to Beinn Eighe, to Mark Shaw for access to the collections at the NMS, and to Dave Clements for checking my larval determinations.—Keith N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

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***Polistichus connexus* (Fourcroy) (Coleoptera: Carabidae) on Wimbleton Common**—In the course of a pitfall-trapping exercise this year, on Wimbleton Common, I caught a single specimen of *Polistichus connexus* in a trap on 14.viii.1990. The trap was in heathland in the south east of the common, near the site of the Bluegate Gravel Pit, the ground vegetation being grassland with heather and scrub growing amongst it. The soil on the common is acidic, underlain with gravel and clay. Other carabids trapped in this and nearby traps included *Carabus nemoralis* Muller, O. F., *Dyschirius globosus* (Herbst), *Pterostichus cupreus* (L.), and *Harpalus rufipes* (Deg.) as well as *Pterostichus madidus* (F.) and *Nebria brevicollis* (F.). Overall the catch in heathland was much lower in numbers of specimens than in adjacent woodland.

The occurrence of *Polistichus connexus* so far from the coast is rather unusual. Donisthorpe (1939) did, however, record it from Windsor Forest, and Mr. A. A. Allen has caught it this summer at m.v. light in the London area (Allen, 1991). If the species is extending its range, the long hot summers we have had recently may be a factor.

I thank Dr M. Luff of the Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne for confirming the identification.—Martin Henderson, 13 Kimble Road, Collier's Wood, London SW19 2AU.

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